

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PRETOR 04492 301709Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-07 EB-08

NRC-05 OES-07 FEAE-00 ERDA-05 AID-05 ERDE-00 /108 W

-----115832 301714Z /46

O R 301628Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8653

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRETORIA 4492

DEPT PASS MOSCOW

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MNUC, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN MINISTER'S STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR ISSUE

REF: PRETORIA 4305,

1. SPEAKING AT THE NATAL CONGRESS OF THE NATIONAL PARTY
ON AUGUST 30, SOUTH AFRICA'S MINISTER OF FINANCE, SENATOR
OWEN HORWOOD, SAID SOUTH AFRICA HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES THAT
ITS NUCLEAR PROGRAMME WAS AIMED AT THE PEACEFUL USE OF
NUCLEAR ENERGY AND IT STOOD BY THAT ASSURANCE. BUT,
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PAGE 02 PRETOR 04492 301709Z

HE SAID, IF SOUTH AFRICA DECIDED TO USE ITS NUCLEAR
POTENTIAL IN ANY OTHER WAY IT WOULD "JOLLY WELL"
DO SO ACCORDING TO ITS OWN NEEDS AND IT ALONE
WOULD MAKE THE DECISION. "I FOR ONE REJECT ABSOLUTELY
AND ENTIRELY THAT ANYONE SHOULD TELL US WHAT WE SHOULD
DO," THE SENATOR STATED. HORWOOD ALSO SAID THE
RUSSIANS HAD RAISED THE STORM ABOUT SOUTH AFRICA'S

PREPARING A NUCLEAR TEST AT A SITE IN THE KALAHARI AND THE AMERICANS HAD TAKEN UP THE CRY AND HAD BEEN FOLLOWED BY OTHERS. "THE LATEST," HE SAID, "WAS THE NEW LITTLE FOREIGN MINISTER OF FRANCE, WHO WHEN HE ARRIVED IN DAR ES SALAAM AND WAS CONFRONTED BY A FEW PROTESTING BLACKS, RUSHED OFF HOME TO FRANCE."

2. HORWOOD CONTINUED WITH THE FOLLOWING CRITICISM OF THE UNITED STATES POSITION ON THE ISSUE: "PRESIDENT CARTER DOES NOT ASK US WHEN HE WANTS TO DO ANYTHING. IF HE THINKS HE IS FREE TO DICTATE TO US, THEN HE IS SIMPLY SAYING 'MIGHT IS RIGHT' AND THAT HE CAN PRESCRIBE MORAL NORMS AND LAY DOWN THE LAW TO EVERYONE ELSE BECAUSE HE IS HEAD OF A GREAT COUNTRY OF 225 MILLION PEOPLE. I REJECT THAT POSITION ABSOLUTELY AND ENTIRELY. WE ARE A SOVEREIGN AUTONOMOUS COUNTRY."

3. HORWOOD'S STATEMENT WAS CARRIED AS LEAD STORY WITH BANNER HEADLINES IN PRETORIA AND JOHANNESBURG AFTERNOON PRESS OF AUGUST 30.

4. FOLLOWING HORWOOD'S STATEMENT, SECRETARY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BRAND FOURIE IN COURSE OF MEETING WITH DON MCHENRY AND AMBASSADOR BOWDLER ON OTHER SUBJECTS SAID THAT HORWOOD HAD NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED TO MAKE HIS STATEMENT AND THAT IT DID NOT REFLECT THE POSITION OF THE SAG. FOURIE PROVIDED THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PRETOR 04492 301709Z

AMBASSADOR THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT BY FOREIGN MINISTER BOTHA TO BE CARRIED ON SABC TODAY (AUGUST 30): "THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRIME MINISTER CLEARLY STATED AND RE-AFFIRMED IN CAPE TOWN ON 24 AUGUST 1977 THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT'S SUPPORT FOR THE IDEAL THAT NUCLEAR ENERGY BE USED SOLELY FOR PEACEFUL PURPOSES. THIS IS AND REMAINS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY. THE ASSURANCES GIVEN TO THE US, FRENCH, BRITISH AND GERMAN GOVERNMENTS REGARDING SOUTH AFRICA'S INTENTIONS IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY REFLECT FIRM GOVERNMENT POLICY."
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NUCLEAR COOPERATION PROGRAMS, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 30-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PRETOR04492
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770313-0595
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From: PRETORIA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977088/aaaaagiv.tel
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TAGS: MNUC, SF, (HORWOOD, OWEN)
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